Waiving of roaming charges

1224. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the residents of Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Noida areas are paying huge amount of the roaming charges on the BSNL Mobile (Cell One);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have any plan to waive off roaming charges in these areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) As per Cellular Mobile Telephone Service/Unified Access Services (CMTS/UAS) License provisions, Delhi Service Area is defined as "Local Areas served by Delhi, Ghaziabad, Faridabad, Noida and Gurgaon Telephone Exchanges". Therefore, Greater Noida, Gurgaon and Noida areas are part of Delhi service area. BSNL is not licensed to operate Cell One mobile services in Delhi service area. Hence, the applicable roaming charges is to be paid by BSNL Mobile (Cell One) subscribers for using mobile services in these areas in roaming mode.

(c) Recently, on 24th January 2007 *vide* Telecommunication Tariff (forty fourth amendment) Order, 2007, (1 of 2007), Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has reduced the ceiling tariff for mobile roaming. There is no proposal to waive off roaming charges in these areas.

Revision of NFAP

1225. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) is revised every two years;

(b) whether it is also a fact that draft NFAP has been prepared in 2005 and that all the stakeholders did not agree to this draft, document; and

(c) if so, the reasons for Government to come out with draft NFAP-2007 before the spectrum policy and ITU-R frequency allocation recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The National Frequency Allocation Plan (NFAP) is normally to be revised after about 2 years.

(b) and (c) In the draft of revised NFAP prepared in the year 2005, there was no general consensus among the stakeholders regarding certain complex issues relating to spectrum allocation for 3G mobile services. Hence, an effort was made to release the revised NFAP, without these issues. However, in the meeting held in July, 2007, some of the stakeholders requested that the revised NFAP may be finalized after the new international frequency allocations etc. decided by the World Radiocommunication Conference-2007 (WRC-2007) of International